

## 2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Proposal Review Panel for Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences

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### 1. Department or Agency

National Science Foundation

### 2. Fiscal Year

2025

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Proposal Review Panel for Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences

### 3b. GSA

### Committee No.

10747

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

06/28/2023

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

06/28/2025

### 7. Expected Term Date

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

### 8c. Actual Term Date

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

ADM IV-100

### 13. Effective Date

10/01/1993

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

Grant Review Committee

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

### 17a.

Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

### Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current Next

FY

FY

<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00 0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

During fiscal year 2024, the Panel reviewed and evaluated about 1658 proposals which include dissertation research proposals. The scope and objectives of the committee is to advise the National Science Foundation (NSF) on the merit of proposals requesting financial support of research and research-related activities. The panel will review proposals submitted to NSF under the review of the Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS). The duties and responsibilities are to review and evaluate proposals, which may include site visits, and provide written recommendations on proposals as part of the selection process for awards.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The membership of the Advisory committee consists of men and women throughout the United States who demonstrate expertise in the major subfields of the following disciplines and topical areas: biological anthropology, archaeology and archaeometry, cultural anthropology, geography and other spatial sciences, social psychology, cognitive and perceptual psychology, developmental and learning sciences, cognitive neuroscience, linguistics and the documentation of endangered languages.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

These meetings provide an opportunity for review and comment on proposals submitted to standing programs as well as to cross-disciplinary activities such as Strengthening American Infrastructure (SAI) and Major Research Instrumentation (MRI). The review panels consider and discuss individual proposals, and assess them for their intellectual merit and broader impacts in accordance with general NSF criteria as well as criteria specific to the area of science. The panels advise NSF on the importance and transformative potential of the individual proposals as well as new research opportunities in order to help NSF accomplish its mission of advancing the behavioral and cognitive sciences. Relevance and timeliness of the considerations are achieved by intense discussions among experts in the appropriate area of science and rotation of these experts over time.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

This committee serves a critical aspect to the merit review process by providing thorough,

efficient and insightful review to research proposals. This advice from practicing scientists give a fair peer evaluation of proposals and offer effective scientific long-range planning. The breadth of knowledge of this committee surpasses that of the NSF staff. The substance of the peer review system is that those scientists most knowledgeable about a field judge the worthiness and importance of a proposal in that area. This requires the Division to consult with many members of the scientific community to ensure fair and reasonable evaluation of a proposal.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

These meetings are closed because the proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

**21. Remarks**

N/A

**Designated Federal Officer**

Joan Sereno Division Director, Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences

**Narrative Description**

The NSF mission is set out in the NSF Act of 1950 authorizes and directs the Agency to initiate and support: basic scientific research and research fundamental to the engineering process; and science and engineering education programs at all levels and in all fields of science and engineering. The involvement of knowledgeable peers

from outside the Foundation in the review of proposals is the keystone of NSF's proposal review system. Their judgments of the extent to which proposals address the merit review criteria are vital for informing NSF staff and influencing funding recommendations.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if  
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Outcome Comments**

NA

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Cost Savings Comments**

The use of panelists to review proposals for the Agency is an invaluable asset. The cost of obtaining the expertise, insight, and information received by the Division using

alternative methods, such as hiring the expertise as full or part-time employees, would be extremely high.

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

1,658

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

This is an ongoing committee. Therefore, the number of recommendations produced by the committee is for the fiscal year.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

100%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

The word “implement” is not applicable to grant review panels. All recommendations are “considered” by the agency.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

Not applicable. Please see answer directly above.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

Although panelists may not receive direct feedback, each committee member may use the NSF FastLane, a public web-based program, which provides information on awards made the agency to determine the outcome of proposals reviewed by the panel.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities

☐

Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Action Comments

N/A

### Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

Yes

What is the estimated **Number** of grants reviewed for approval

What is the estimated **Number** of grants recommended for approval 1,658  
317

What is the estimated **Dollar Value** of grants recommended for approval  
\$102,092,075

### Grant Review Comments

The panelists/advisory committee members provided information on the merit of the proposal, which includes an overall rating. The number of proposals above includes pre-proposals submitted to NSF for review. The pre-proposals are not included in the number of "grants recommend" or "dollar value of grants" recommended for approval.

### How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Access Comments

N/A